



ROBERT F. KENNEDY: In the hurricane's eye at home and abroad

A conspiracy and cover-up?

THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, by William W. Turner and Junn G. Christian, 397 pages, illustrated, Random House, \$12.95.

Review by
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Not long ago, in magazine articles, investigative reportage in newspapers, and book after book from major (as well as decidedly minor) publishers, conspiracy theories abounded about the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and

Martin Luther King. Some were bolstered by serious examination of deficiencies in the public record, or thoughtful discussions of seeming anomalies in such technical fields as ballistics or anatomy; some were clearly politically motivated; some were sheer fantasy, on a par with personal reminiscences of being taken captive briefly by little green men from flying saucers.

As is the case with so many topics taken up by the media, overplay held its own fatality. While small groups, now dismissively referred to as "assassination buffs," held conventions from time to time, like

Baker Street Irregulars and "Star Trek" buffs, the media went on to other matters, and so did the public, though still nagged by the thought that "there must have been something more to it," shrugging it off with the twin thought, "Well, I guess there's no way we'll ever really know."

In the late summer of 1978, it has taken publisher's courage to bring out a book on Robert Kennedy's assassination, with a subtitle: "A searching look at the conspiracy and cover-up: 1968-1978." It is a book that must be reckoned with, and that should persuade authorities to reopen an

investigation of the case. Turner and Christian, the first a former FBI special agent, the second a radio newsman, have made a most convincing case for a cover-up, largely on the part of the Los Angeles Police Department, and though some of their conspiracy speculations seem far out—Sirhan Sirhan as a kind of Manchurian Candidate hypnotically programmed to pull the trigger—their investigations have uncovered enough odd characters, unexplained conflicts in testimony, ambiguous reactions, and unlikely coincidences, to make it would seem, a reopened investigation mandatory.